TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 22, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads has topped the record set in 1987 with two weeks left in this year, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

The 50-week 1988 total of an estimated 963.8 billion ton-miles was 5.8 percent above the comparable period of last year, which finished up at a then-record 943.7 billion ton-miles.

Freight traffic during the week ended December 17 totaled an estimated 19.6 billion ton-miles, up 1.7 percent from the 19.2 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987.

Carloadings originated in the week ended December 17 totaled 436,511, up 2.2 percent from the corresponding week of last year, but down 3.7 percent from the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 9.2 percent in the West, but down 3.7 percent in the East.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 12 of the 20 major commodity groups decreased. Motor vehicles and equipment loadings were up 4,783 cars (24.2 percent), and loadings of metallic ores increased by 3,198 cars (19.8 percent). Grain loadings were down by 2,291 cars (7.3 percent). Sixteen of the 20 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended December 10 totaled 119,683 trailers and/or containers, down 1.9 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 49 weeks of the year was 5,399,044 trailers and/or containers, up 3.6 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/17/88:

	Loadings in Week ended December 17, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	29,234	D	2,291	7.3	D	307	1.0
Other farm products	4,289	D	1,014	19.1	D	193	4.3
Metallic ores	19,372	I	3,198	19.8	D	4,408	18.5
Coal	127,399	D	118	0.1	D	5,373	4.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,203	I	394	3.1	D	2,530	16.1
Nonmetallic minerals	9,257	D	49	0.5	D	307	3.2
Grain mill products	10,848	D	128	1.2	D	488	4.3
Food and kindred products	10,927	D	56	0.5	D	445	3.9
Primary forest products	9,941	D	1,429	12.6	D	630	6.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,972	D	779	10.1	D	42	0.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	11,201	D	811	6.8	D	177	1.6
Chemicals and allied products	28,007	I	1,000	3.7	D	679	2.4
Petroleum products	5,402	I	824	18.0	D	165	3.0
Stone, clay and glass products	9,589	I	508	5.6	D	1,525	13.7
Coke	5,998	I	281	4.9	I	351	6.2
Metals and products	9,483	D	628	6.2	I	240	2.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	24,581	I	4,783	24.2	I	334	1.4
Waste and scrap materials	9,216	D	175	1.9	D	560	5.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,042	D	430	17.4	D	88	4.1
All other carloads	89,550	I	6,226	7.5	I	326	0.4
Total Cars Loaded	436,511	I	9,306	2.2	D	16,666	3.7
Corresponding week of 1987	427,205						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (50 weeks)	21,394,292	20,532,041	I 4.2
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
49 weeks ended December 10	944.2	891.7	I 5.9
Week ended December 17	19.6	19.2	I 1.7
50 Weeks cumulative	963.8	911.0	I 5.8

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